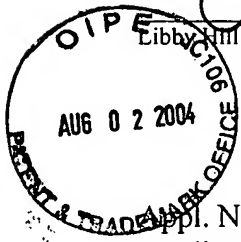


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Ref. No.: 12439-0121

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on July 28, 2004 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/087,081
Applicant : Grube et al.
Filed : March 1, 2002
TC/A.U. : 2812
Examiner : S. Whitmore

Confirmation No. 3189

Docket No. : P177-US

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of April 28, 2004, the shortened statutory period for response to which ends after July 28, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the list of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.